BASEBALL IN D.C.
The National Pastime. The Nation's Capital.

HOW MUCH WILL THE ENTIRE PROJECT COST?

Bringing baseball back to DC will cost about $400 million to build a new ballpark of which the District is proposing to contribute $275 million. The total project is estimated to cost $460 million and includes renovation of RFK as well the building and financing of a new ballpark. Of that, nearly 70 percent – $330 million – will come from public investment, with the remainder coming from the new owner. This level of public funding is very similar to what has been done in other cities.

WHERE WILL THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT COME FROM?

Bonds would be issued to finance construction of the ballpark. These bonds would be financed over a 30-year period and repaid through a combination of funding sources:

♦ **Taxes at the Ballpark:**

  ♦ Sales tax revenues will be collected on baseball admission tickets, concessions and merchandise at the ballpark.

  ♦ Athletes playing in all new athletic facilities financed by the District of Columbia government will be subject to DC income tax for games played in the District of Columbia.

♦ **Ballpark Fee**: Larger businesses – those that collect $3 million or more in annual revenues – will be assessed a progressive "ballpark fee." Fees will be based upon the annual revenue a business collects, and will range from $1,300 to $12,000. These fees will generate about $9 million in annual revenue. Less than 2,000 of the 18,000 eligible District businesses – about 10 percent – will pay this fee.

♦ Small businesses, nonprofits and DC taxpayers **WILL NOT** shoulder the costs of the new ballpark.

DOES THIS COMPETE WITH OTHER PUBLIC PRIORITIES?

NO DC general revenues will be used in the construction of the ballpark. More than two-thirds of the revenue under this plan will be available only if baseball comes to Washington, D.C. The ballpark will not take away funds or compete with schools, libraries or any other expenditure in the DC capital or operating budgets.

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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The DC Council's Committee on Finance & Revenue will be holding a hearing on the proposed legislation on Thursday, June 12 at 10 AM. Following the hearing, the Committee will mark up and vote the bill out of Committee. The Council is expected to vote on the legislation at its July 8 Legislative Session. Assuming MLB selects DC as the new home of the Expos before or during the All-Star break, MLB will then select an ownership group. The city will then work with the ownership group on selecting a site and developing a business agreement which will establish the ownership group's share of the stadium costs.

HOW WILL BASEBALL BENEFIT WASHINGTON, D.C.?

♦ **BASEBALL IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBA**

Construction of the new ballpark alone is projected to create 3,500 new jobs, and generate $5 million in District tax revenues.

Team and ballpark operations will create nearly 360 new jobs, $40 million in annual salaries, and $28 million in annual tax revenues.

Fan spending outside the ballpark will introduce nearly $48 million in annual economic activity to the District. It will create 675 new jobs, with annual earnings over $14 million.

A new ballpark and team will produce over $1.1 billion in overall benefits over the 30-year period.

Our new ballpark will ultimately do for its neighborhood what MCI Center did for its neighborhood. By its 10th birthday, the MCI Center will have generated over $14 billion in new development, including over 5,000 units of housing, created over 17,000 new jobs, and generated nearly $140 million in annual tax revenue within just five blocks.

♦ **BASEBALL IS GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY AND INSPIRES CIVIC PRIDE**

Baseball creates a lasting sense of civic pride, and transcends social barriers to unify cities around their home team. Few events rally a community and create shared memories more than Opening Day, a September pennant race or a Game Seven.

Washington, DC is our nation's capital. Baseball is our national pastime. It is time to bring the two together again.